

Friis, John

From: Nicholas Mauro [nhmjazz@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2009 2:04 PM
To: Friis, John
Cc: eca_pace@yahoo.com
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

To whom it may concern,

It disturbs me to find out this information that could ruin the opportunity for so many gifted students to attend such a great program. I attended ECA my last 2 years of high school. I was in the district of Naugatuck and quite miserable there to say the least. My mother found out about the program while I was attending Neighborhood music school in New Haven and I enrolled the following fall semester. The paperwork was filled out, and Naugatuck was to subsidise 3/4 of the tuition and we were to pay the rest. Around November, ECA was stiffed on payments by the Naugatuck board of education and we were stuck with the bill. If it wasn't for my parents, I would have never had the opportunity to attend such a great program. This bill would take away the chance for anyone who is in a similar situation to attend such an amazing program. This bill is not only unjust to all those talented enough to get in, but criminal in the fact that these gifted students will be robbed of using their talent to the fullest potential.

I learned more about music at ECA than I did in college. I was exempt from all music theory courses in college because of my education at ECA. The teachers in the program are fully qualified, whether certified or not, and fully competent of passing their experience and knowledge on to their students. I had great teachers when I attended ECA, none of whom were certified to teach, but all of whom had the work and life experience of doing what we all aspired to do. Many of the music teachers had played with some of the most prestigious musicians in the world. The teachers at ECA all have done and know what it takes to use their art form to make a comfortable living, and are now passing those experiences on. Don't take that away from the students, for that is the best education one can get. I have lived in NYC for 5 years now. I have met many of musicians who I play with through contacts from ECA, teachers from ECA or former Students from ECA. The ECA crowd is a very tight knit group. The musicians all know, support and respect each other. I am friends with Alumni of ECA from over a decade before I was there. Some who I play with regularly. ECA has been a successful school for over 35 years and has produced some of the most talented artists in the world. If this bill passes, it will destroy any possibility of that continuing. I urge you to do everything in your power to prevent this from passing. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nicholas H. Mauro
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